

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN T. CASEY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend warm birthday wishes and to pay tribute to a dear friend and great man, Mr. John T. Casey.

John will not turn 80 years old until August 17, but I want to take this opportunity to honor him before the House of Representatives adjourns for the month of August.

As many of his friends would tell you, John is a very civic-minded man. He was an active member of the Town of Gardiner Democratic Committee for 35 years, of which he served as its chairman for 22 years. It was in this capacity that I came to know him when I ran for a seat in the New York State Assembly in the early 1970s. I truly appreciated and valued the support and encouragement that John gave me, and am happy to say it was the start of a wonderful and long lasting friendship.

His contributions weren't limited to the Democratic Party. John was equally dedicated to improving the lives of working Americans through the labor movement. He and I share the belief that good jobs, fair wages and true economic opportunity must be realized for every single American. This is a message that must be carried to every corner of this nation, and John carried this out as a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, local #445. Not only was he a member of the Teamsters for almost 50 years, starting out as a shop steward, he also served as its president from the mid-1970's to 1980.

John proudly served his country in the U.S. Army from 1944 to 1946, serving as a master sergeant in Holland, France and Germany during World War II, and is a member and past commander of the American Legion Post 176 in New Paltz, New York. Additionally, John also served his community as chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners in Gardiner, and is a life member of its fire company. This is a man who has dedicated himself to the betterment of the community and for that we will always be grateful.

Happy birthday friend, I'm honored to share your day with you.

TRIBUTE TO SEELEY LODWICK

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform the House of the passing of one of Iowa's most distinguished leaders of the 20th century, Seeley Lodwick.

Seeley's was a life of public service—a Marine in the greatest war in human history; a farm leader during the greatest era of innovation and change in agriculture; a public servant who served in both our State and national capitols; and a political activist who helped elect presidents and legislators.

Seeley will be remembered as a gentleman of the soil, a son of Iowa, a true friend.

Seeley's passing leaves a gap in all of our lives, for his wife Pat particularly because no marriage could be closer; ours because no friend could be more counted upon for trusted support and sage advice.

He will be much missed because he stood so steadfastly for the values in American politics that seems so forgotten—loyalty, decency, respect.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. BENNIE F. WOOD II

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bennie F. Wood II, the recipient of the Meritorious Civilian Service Award for 37 years of Federal service.

This July, Mr. Wood completes a distinguished 37-year career in Federal service that began with student service in 1969. After a brief stint with a private engineering firm following his graduation from the University of Virginia, he entered Federal service as a Civil Engineer with the Public Works Department of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Mr. Wood continued with NAVFAC until 1976, leaving his position as MILCON Project Manager for the Chesapeake Region to undertake more than two decades of service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' substantial nation building efforts in the Middle East. He held progressively more responsible positions, and served overseas in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait during the first Gulf War.

He returned to the U.S. to become Chief of Engineering and Construction Management Directorate and later, the Assistant Deputy for Programs and Project Management at Transatlantic Program Center. During this period, Mr. Wood received two Commanders Awards for Civilian Service and, in 1991, a Superior Civilian Service Award.

With all these years of military construction and overseas project management behind him, Mr. Wood made a bold move in 1999 to enter the Corps' Civil Works arena for the first time as the Wilmington District's Chief of Technical Services Division. Determined to bring his overseas experience back home in the service of the nation's water resources, Mr. Wood vigorously led a highly successful effort to push ahead with the long-awaited Wilmington Harbor Channel Deepening Project. This multi-contract, multi-phase project called on his leadership skills and elicited outstanding efforts from his team of engineers, construction managers and environmentalists. Mr. Wood was a vital part of the leadership team that kept this and other District projects on track, despite the challenges and disruptions brought about by the terrorist attacks of 9/11/2001 and the following military actions in the Gulf Region.

In 2002, he was called upon to act as the District's Deputy for Project and Programs Management, while the serving Deputy and other team members deployed to Kuwait and Iraq in advance of the U.S. military effort there. His leadership during this crucial time kept the District's projects and programs moving ahead despite the absence of key staff

members and the challenges of curtailed funding.

In 2003, Mr. Wood spearheaded an outstanding effort to accomplish rapid repair of a nearly mile-wide breach in Hatteras Island caused by Hurricane Isabel. During this period he was recognized with two Commanders Awards for Civilian Service.

In 2004, Mr. Wood stepped up permanently as the Deputy for Project and Programs Management, and has since been a key leader in a period of significant change for the Wilmington District. As the South Atlantic Division approached regionalization, he has been at the forefront of the change effort, and has played an important role in empowering the district to take on its new roles as the Engineering and Planning Center for the Savannah-Charleston-Jacksonville triad. He has also provided firm and supportive leadership as the District undertook the challenges of implementing the P2 system, and has kept many key projects on track through a period of wartime budget constraints. Mr. Wood's diplomacy and broad knowledge of the Corps have proved an asset as the District works with many local and national elected officials, and stakeholders. His leadership has been critical to the District's continued standing as a "first among equals."

His distinguished career brings great credit upon himself, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the United States Army.

As a member of Congress who has had the pleasure of working with Mr. Wood, I can honestly say that the American taxpayer has been well-served by his dedication and commitment to excellence.

It is an honor to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Wood upon the completion of his distinguished 37-year career, and to extend my sincere thanks for his service to our nation and to the state of North Carolina.

PLEDGE PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2389) to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance:

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my opposition to H.R. 2389, the Pledge Protection Act of 2005. This legislation does nothing to address the real issues facing families in America today, and serves merely to distract and delay Congress from efforts to vote on issues that would actually impact the daily lives of our constituents.

This bill failed to pass out of the Judiciary Committee, and yet, we are voting on it today on the Floor of the People's House, an event without precedence according to the Parliamentarian. The Majority is taking this extraordinary action not for an issue that will affect the daily lives of American families—but for a blatantly political debate in an election-year attempt to appeal to their base. My constituents are concerned about the conflict in the Middle